

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 20472 171423Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIEP-02 FTC-01
JUSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-02 L-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /076 W
----- 044382 /46

R 171250Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1804
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

UNCLAS ROME 20472

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US
SUBJ: PRESS WITNESSES LOCKHEED COMMITTEE INTERROGATIONS OF
EX-MINISTERS

1. ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 15, THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
COMMITTEE REVERSED ITS PREVIOUS DECISION (SEE REFTEL)#NOT
TO GRANT THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE INTERROGATIONS OF FORMER
MINISTERS GUI, RUMOR AND TANASSI. THE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED
THAT THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD TELEPHONED TO SAY
THAT A TELEX AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE AMERICAN-FURNISHED
LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS IN A PUBLIC SESSION HAD BEEN SENT.
THE PRESS WITNESSED THE INTERROGATIONS ON THE MORNING
OF DECEMBER 16 VIA CLOSED CIRCUIT TV, AND WAS ADMITTED INTO
THE COMMITTEE CHAMBER FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

2. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ALL THREE EX-MINISTERS
PROTESTED THEIR COMPLETE INNOCENCE. GUI WAS PERHAPS
MOST UNEQUIVOCAL AND, FOR THE PRESS, CONVINCING. HE
SAID THAT HIS SUCCESSOR (TANASSI) WAS THE ONE WHO
CONCLUDED THE LOCKHEED AGREEMENT. GUI ALSO ANNOUNCED
THAT HE HAD REQUESTED AND BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO TESTIFY
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BEFORE THE "AMERICAN COMMITTEE THAT IS INVESTIGATING THE
MULTINATIONALS," AND THAT HE WOULD GO TO THE US FOR THAT PURPOSE
ON JANUARY 11. TANASSI EVIDENTLY CONTRADICTED GUI BY SAYING
THAT THE LOCKHEED ARRANGEMENT WAS ALREADY CONCLUDED BY THE TIME
HE TOOK OVER THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO. /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/
REPORTS THAT TANASSI SEEMED AWKWARD, INSECURE AND EMBARRASSED

IN DENYING THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM. RUMOR, ACCUSED OF ACCEPTING PROMISES OF KICKBACKS, DECLARED THAT HE FELT THAT AS PRIME MINISTER HE HAD THE DUTY OF MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE FOREIGN FIRMS WHICH HAD BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. THE INTERROGATIONS OF THE ACCUSED CONCLUDE ANOTHER PHASE IN THE LOCKHEED INQUIRY. THE COMMITTEE HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL CONSIGN THE DOCUMENTS TO COUNSEL FOR THE ACCUSED BEFORE CHRISTMAS. THE PLEAS OF THE DEFENSE WILL COMMENCE JANUARY 11 (BUT GUI WILL EVIDENTLY BE IN THE US THEN), AND THE FINAL COMMITTEE VOTES ARE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 15. BEAUDRY

NOTE BY OC/T: #REFTEL OMISSION AS RECEIVED

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NNN

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